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Inventory for
Captain Mark Thurlow Papers
MS-342

Inclusive dates: 1847-1875

by
Tracy Lamaestra and Anastasia Weigle
July 2012

Shelf feet: .25 linear feet
Number of boxes: 1

Accession 2000.48

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Abstract

Thurlow, Mark, *Captain* (b. 1818-d. 1893)

Papers, 1847-1875

1 Manuscript size box, (.25 Shelf feet)

Sea captain from Cutler, Maine.

Vessel and personal papers of Captain Mark Thurlow aboard the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner), the *Susan* (Brig) and *Virginia* (Bark). Vessel papers include an account book along with receipts. Personal papers include the Cutler School House account book, account summaries and receipts with his brother, Charles T. Thurlow.

Purchased at Trueman Auction Company.

MS-342. Accession No. 2000.48.

Finding aid available in repository; folder level control.

Added entries—persons:

Simpson, George W. [Washington], *Captain*

Thurlow, Charles T., *Captain*

Added entries—places

Cutler (ME)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Cutler School House

J. A. Simpson (Schooner)

Susan (Brig)

Virginia (Bark)

Added entries—key terms:

Accounts

Account books

Merchant seamen

Receipts

Schools

Seamanship

Seafaring

Ship Captains

Wages

Acquisition

The Maine Maritime Museum purchased the Captain Mark Thurlow papers at an auction held on July 23, 2000 at Trueman Auction Company in Waldoboro, Maine, accession no. 2000.48. Many other account books and log-books related to Capt. Thurlow were sold at the same auction, but the Museum was not able to obtain them.

Provenance

There is no known provenance at this time.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the study or use of these materials.

Physical Condition

Many of the papers have surface dirt. Some manuscripts are discolored or stained. Other papers have creases with minor tears on edges and fold lines. These were repaired with thin, transparent document repair tape. Those with heavier crease lines, folds or dog ears were flattened with a tacking iron at low to medium heat. A portion of the first page of Cutler School House account is torn free and parts are missing. Some of the records are fragile and should be handled with care. These have been sleeved in Melinex or archival Mylar. Enclosures were created for the Cuter School account book and Capt. Thurlow's vessel account book.

Processing Notes

This small collection was loosely organized in an archival box. Vessel and personal papers were separated. The organization of the collection follows a standardized sequence to simplify access. Vessel papers are separated from personal papers and are filed chronologically by creation date.

In the back of Capt. Thurlow's account book is a list of places he voyaged to. He lists the location, the vessel and number of voyages. We have transcribed this under **Appendix A.** A second appendix **(Appendix B)** lists captains' and vessel names found in the account book.

Biographical Notes

Captain Mark Thurlow was born on November 6, 1818 in Cutler, Maine to Carr Thurlow (1773-1857) and Molly Tyler Thurlow (1782-1874). He married Susan P. Randall (1832-1917) about 1851 and resided in Cutler. They had seven children—three daughters and four sons—Francis W. (1852-1885), Leffert A. C. (1855-1889), Charles B. (1856 -1921), Carrie E. (1860-1926), Melvin G. (b. 1864), Lillian A. (1868-1868) and Leon M. (1870-1949). [4]

Mark Thurlow was shipmaster of the *Carrie Estelle* (Brig), *Five Brothers* (Brig), *Susan* (Brig), *Rose Haskell* (Schooner) and *Virginia* (Bark). He also had a vested interest in these and other vessels. He was co-owner of the brig *Carrie Estelle* with Nathaniel Stevens of North Andover, MA. He owned 1/8 share of the brig *Five Brothers*, 1/8 share of the brig *Susan*, and 6/64 shares of the bark *Virginia*. Other vessels Capt. Thurlow had a vested interest in were the *Bonny Doon* (Bark — 2/64 shares), *Emily Curtis* (Schooner—1/16 share), *Emma K. Smalley*—(Schooner—2/64 shares), *Fanny Flint* (Schooner—2/64 shares), *Harriot Stevens* (Bark—1/16 share), *Harry and Fred* (Schooner—2/64 shares)[1]

Between October 1847 and June 1849, Mark Thurlow sailed aboard the schooner *J. A. Simpson* with George W. Simpson, owner and shipmaster. It appears Mark Thurlow may have been "first mate" of the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner) as indicated by his own writing in his account receipt book:

> *"Shiped [sic] on board the J. A. Simpson Schr at Machias Sunday October 10, 1847 with Capt. Geo. W. Simpson bound to New York at 30 Dollars per mont[h] Discharged Oct. 20th and Settled up."*[2]

It is unclear if or when Mark Thurlow took over the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner) from Captain George W. Simpson during the time between 1847 and 1849.

The schooner *J. A. Simpson* traveled to various ports in the mid-Atlantic sea ports of the United States (New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Ipswich) to the West Indies (Nuevitas and Havana, Cuba, and Puerto Rico). Capt. Mark Thurlow kept an account book of purchases, disbursements and receipts for crew wages while aboard the schooner. He was responsible for purchasing supplies for the ship stores, assisting with freight and paying crewmen.

Capt. Thurlow left the *J. S. Simpson* (Schooner) for the brig *Susan* on December 1849. He stayed with the brig *Susan* until December of 1851. The only other references Capt. Thurlow makes in his account receipt book is one page dated *"Tusday* [sic] *June 20th, 1854*" for the bark *Virginia*.

Capt. Mark Thurlow's brother, Charles T. Thurlow, was also a shipmaster as well as a merchant and is listed as owning a "country store" in the 1850 Maine Register. Capt. Mark Thurlow did business with his brother for the purchase of food and supplies.

Members of the Thurlow family and the community were involved in the building of the Cutler School House in 1875. There is very little information about the Cutler School House other than an article written by Frank Andrews for the Down East magazine September 1997, the Cutler School House is described as:

> *"Just beyond that is an empty schoolhouse of a pale yellow. In its day the school's facade must have glowed, its color so bright, and it looks all the more forlorn now that it's faded. It's been abandoned ..."* [3]

Captain Mark Thurlow's career as a seaman and master mariner spanned forty-three years. He died on December 24, 1893 and was buried in Cutler, Maine.

References cited:

1. *Ship registers and enrollments of Machias, Maine 1780-1930*. Part I & II. Rockland, Maine: The National Archives Project , 1942.

2. Thurlow, Mark, Capt. Account Book, 1847-54.
3. Andrews, Frank. "The Real Thing." *Down East*. September 1997, pg. 44.

Capt. Charles T. Thurlow was born 1822 in Cutler, Maine and was the brother of Capt. Mark Thurlow. He married Eunice C. Ackley of Cutler on April 16, 1865 and they had nine children—four daughters (Susan O., b. 1848; Alice Belcher, b. 1856; Mary Ella, b. 1857; and Clara/Clare Emma, b. 1862) and five sons (George W., abt. 1849; Frederick Willliam, b. 1852; Charles Melvin, b. 1854; Maurie P. or R., b. 1862 and Lewis Kalmon, b. 1867).

Charles T. Thurlow is listed as a "farmer" in the 1850 United States Federal Census, "Merchant" in the 1860 United States Federal Census and in "Retail Sales" in the 1865 IRS Tax Assessment List. The 1850 Maine Directory also lists Charles T. Thurlow of Cutler, Maine as a "Justice of the Peace" and "Inspector for the Cutler Seat of Customs." The only referenced to a seafaring life is in the 1850-1880 U.S. Federal Census Non-population Schedules listing his occupation as fishing[4] and the New England Business Directors of 1860 and 1865 listing him as a fish dealer.

Ship registers and enrollments of Machias, Maine shows us that Charles T. Thurlow commanded the vessel *Lark* (Schooner) in 1863. The *Lark* was built at Harpswell in 1834 and was initially owned by Malachi Flagg. In 1860, Charles T. Thurlow purchased ½ share of the vessel. He then left the *Lark* (Schooner) and came aboard the schooner *Decator* as shipmaster between 1864 and 1869. The *Decator* was built at Essex, MA in 1836 and Charles T. Thurlow was registered as full owner of this vessel in 1864. In 1865,. Charles T. Thurlow co-owned the vessel with Moses T. Stevens. He continued to be master of this vessel up until his death in 1869 at which point his heirs owned ½ of the vessel. By 1870, his heirs owned 32/64.[1] Capt. Charles T. Thurlow died October 3, 1869 in Cutler, Maine.

References cited:
1. *Ship registers and enrollments of Machias, Maine 1780-1930*. Part I & II. Rockland, Maine: The National Archives Project , 1942.
2. Thurlow, Mark, Capt. Account Book, 1847-54.
3. Andrews, Frank. "The Real Thing." *Down East*. September 1997, pg. 44.
4. http://www.ancestry.com and http://rootsweb.com

Scope and Content Notes

This is a small collection of vessel and personal papers for Captain Mark Thurlow from 1847-75. The vessel papers pertain to the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner), *Susan* (Brig) and the *Virginia* (Bark). An account book belonging to Mark Thurlow covers voyage of the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner), the brig *Susan* from December 1849 to December 1851 and the bark *Virginia* June 1854. Two small receipts were found in the account book for the brig *Susan* dated December 1853. A small fanciful epitaph on the back inside cover of his account book states:

> *"This day I am on board the Schr. J. A. Simpson at St. John Porto Rico, West Indies Isle on the 17 day of March in the year of Eighteen and forty 8"*

Crewmen and wages are recorded in this account book. Merchant accounts, ports, freight and cargo, repairs, labor, supplies, fees and insurance are documented in this source as well.

Personal papers are general accounts between Captain Mark Thurlow and his brother, Capt. Charles T. Thurlow. Receipts are for sundries and goods purchased by Mark Thurlow from his brother Charles T. Thurlow. One receipt is dated 1871 for a settlement of accounts to Eunice Thurlow, Charles T. Thurlow's wife, two years after his death in 1869.

Lastly, a small pamphlet-stitched account disbursement book dated 1875 during the construction of the Cutler School House.

Description of Series

Series I: Vessel Papers (1847-69) for the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner), *Susan* (Brig) and *Virginia* (Bark). An account book belonging to Captain Mark Thurlow when he was aboard the *J. A. Simpson* (Schooner) as "first mate" with Capt George W. Simpson, shipmaster and owner, between 1847 and 1849 and as captain of the brig *Susan* between 1849-51. The account book also includes crew wages. There are two receipts for the bark *Virginia* dated 1853 and one receipt in acct. with J. S. Winslow & Co. dated 1869.

Series II: Personal Papers (1852-75). These are account summaries for sundries and personal items purchased by Captain Mark Thurlow from his brother Capt. Charles T. Thurlow. There is also a receipt for paid taxes and a receipt for settling an account with Eunice Thurlow, the widow of Capt. Charles T. Thurlow. Lastly, an 1875 account book for the construction of the Cutler School House.

MS-342 Captain Mark Thurlow Papers
Finding Aid

Box #	Folder #	
	Series I. Vessel Papers	
1	**1**	Account Book of Captain Thurlow, aboard schooner *J. A. Simpson*, brig *Susan* and bark *Virginia*, 1847-54 includes two receipts for *Virginia* (Bark) found in account book, 1853
	2	Receipt from Capt. Mark Thurlow to J. S. Winslow & Co., 1869
	Series II. Personal Papers	
	3	Cutler School House, Account Book, 1875
	4	Account summaries and receipts, in acct. with Charles T. Thurlow, 1842-71

APPENDIX A.

TRANSCRIPTION OF VOYAGES TAKEN FROM MARK THURLOW'S ACCOUNT RECEIPT BOOK
(Located next to the last page)

KEY:

C. L.V. = *Charles L. Vose* (Schooner) Crewman (?)
J.A.S. = *J.A. Simpson* (Schooner) First Mate
Brothers = *Five Brothers* (Brig)
Virginia = *Virginia* (Bark)
Susan = *Susan* (Brig)
C.H. = *Carrie Estelle* (Brig)
A.R. = *A. Richards* (Brig or Schooner) Crewman (?)

Port	Vessel Name	# of Voyages
Nuevitas [Cuba]	J.A.S. [*J.A. Simpson*]	7 Voyages
Nuevitas [Cuba]	Brothers [*Five Brothers*]	6 do.
Nuevitas [Cuba]	J.A.S. [*J.A. Simpson*]	1 do.
Nuevitas [Cuba]	*Susan*	6 do.
Nuevitas [Cuba]	Virginia	2 do.
Havana	J.A.S. [*J.A. Simpson*]	1 do.
Havana	*Susan*	1 do.
[Matanzas ?]	*Susan*	1 do.
Cienfuegos	*Virginia*	2 do.
Trinidad	C. L.V. [*Charles L. Rose*]	2 do.
Barbados	*Five Brothers*	1 do.
Porto Rico [Puerto Rico]	J.A.S. [*J. A. Simpson*]	1 do.
St. Domingo [Santa Domingo]	C. H. [*Carrie Estelle*]	1 do.
do.	*Susan*	1 do.
St. Martins	*Susan*	1 do.
Jam [Jamaica]	A. R. [*A. Richards*]	1 do.
Granada	A. R. [*A. Richards*]	1 do.
Turks Isl. [Island]	A. R. [*A. Richards*]	1 do.

APPENDIX B. INDEX OF CAPTAIN'S AND VESSEL NAMES FOUND IN ACCOUNT RECEIPT BOOK 1847-54

(Page numbered by Capt. Mark Thurlow up to 58. Remainder of pages numbered by archivist in brackets)

NAME	PAGE NO.
Flitner, *Captain*	3
Mayhew, *Captain*	3
Ashland (Schooner)	17
Reller, John, *Captain*	54, 58
Alexandria, *Captain*	64
Small, *Captain*	64
Merall?, *Captain*	64